

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1 to 16 (Canceled).

17. (Currently amended) A method for positioning a catheter delivering and recovering an embolic protection device within a patient's blood vessel, the method comprising:

providing a catheter comprising an elongated member configured to be advanced along a vascular path of a patient, the elongated member having opposite first and second ends and corresponding first and second end portions, the first end and second ends both being adapted for intravascular insertion, the first end portion comprising a delivery sheath, the second end portion comprising a retrieval sheath, the delivery sheath comprising at least one sidewall port adapted for receiving a wire, and the catheter having a lumen between the first end and the at least one sidewall port;

providing a guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end;

advancing the guide wire to a target site within the patient's blood vessel; and

advancing the catheter over the guide wire by inserting the guide wire through the catheter lumen between the first end and the at least one sidewall port, the first end being the distal most tip of the catheter,

wherein an embolic protection device is loaded into the catheter prior to advancing the catheter over the guide wire,

wherein the catheter is advanced over the guide wire to a treatment site and the embolic protection device is advanced out of the catheter through the delivery sheath,

wherein after the embolic protection device is advanced out of the catheter, the catheter is removed from the patient's blood vessel, the catheter is reversed such that the second end is the distal most tip of the catheter, the catheter is reintroduced into the patient's blood vessel, and the embolic protection device is recovered into the retrieval sheath.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 48 17, wherein after the catheter is advanced over the guide wire to [[a]] the treatment site, the guide wire is removed, and the embolic protection device then is advanced out of the catheter.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 48 17, wherein the delivery sheath comprises first and second sidewall ports adapted for receiving wires.

21. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the distance from the first sidewall port to the first end is less than the distance from the second sidewall port to the first end, the lumen extends between the first end of the elongate elongated member and the first and second sidewall ports, the lumen having a first diameter at the first sidewall port and a second, reduced diameter at a point between the first and second sidewall ports.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the embolic protection device is loaded in the lumen between the first and second sidewall ports.

Claims 23 to 25 (Canceled).

26. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the embolic protection device is advanced out of the catheter through the delivery sheath by retracting the catheter relative to the embolic protection device.

27. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the embolic protection device is a filter.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the filter is self-expandable.

29. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the catheter is advanced to the treatment site with a guide catheter.

30. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein after the embolic protection device is advanced out of the catheter, an interventional device is used to treat the treatment site.

31. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the embolic protection device comprises a host wire and the embolic protection device is recovered into the retrieval sheath by advancing the retrieval sheath over the host wire.

32. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the sidewall port is skived.

33. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the sidewall ports are skived.

34. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the retrieval sheath comprises a rolled tip.